

Remarks

In the present application, claims 1, 3-10, 12-28, 34-41 and 43-44 are pending. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-28, 34-41 and 43-44 are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement.

The Examiner imposed a restriction requirement, identifying three species groups:

Specie I (claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 41);

Specie II (claim 17);

Specie III (claims 18 and 43-44);

Specie IV (claims 19-21 and 34);

Specie V (claims 22-28, 35 and 37-39); and

Specie VI (claims 24, 36 and 40).

Specie I (claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 41) is hereby elected, with traverse, for further prosecution on the merits. Specie II (claim 17), Specie III (claims 18 and 43-44), Specie IV (claims 19-21 and 34), Specie V (claims 22-28, 35 and 37-39), and Specie VI (claims 24, 36 and 40) are withdrawn.

The Applicants respectfully note that the subject matter recited in the claims of Species II, III, IV, V and VI are, at least partially, related to the subject matter recited in the claims of Specie I. Additionally, it is noted that claims in all six groups have already been examined. Clearly, it would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner to search the claims of Species II, III, IV, V, and VI in addition to the claims of Specie I. As such, the election is made with traverse.

A favorable consideration that results in the early allowance of now pending claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 41 is earnestly solicited.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant believes that each and every issue raised by the Examiner has been adequately addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. As such, early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

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Art Unit: 2181

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Respectfully submitted:



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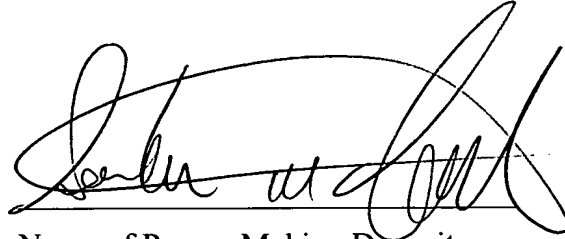
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8-13-09

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